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OCT 18 2004

**FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL**

Date: October 18, 2004  
To: OFFICE OF PETITIONS  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Fax No.: 1-703-872-9306 (centralized facsimile number)  
From: Mary M. Lee  
My File No.: 7620-002  
Re: Petition to Make Application Special  
Application No.: 10/695,610  
Title: MOBILE GAS SEPARATOR SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
TREATING DIRTY GAS AT THE WELL SITE OF A STIMULATED  
WELL

*Pages Including Cover Sheet: 6*

**Comments:**

Please see attached.

The original of this correspondence will follow.

No original of this correspondence will follow.

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OCT 18 2004

**PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor: Ronald L. Strahan

Serial No.: 10/695,610

Filed: October 28, 2003

For: MOBILE GAS SEPARATOR SYSTEM  
AND METHOD FOR TREATING DIRTY  
GAS AT THE WELL SITE OF A  
STIMULATED WELL

Group No.: 1724

Examiner: Jason M. Greene

Att'y Dkt. No.: 7620-002

**MAIL STOP PETITIONS**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

**PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL  
BASED ON ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT  
AND ENERGY CONSERVATION  
(37 C.F.R. § 1.102(c) and M.P.E.P. § 708.02 )**

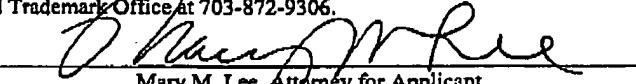
Applicant hereby petitions to make this application special. This petition is based on 37 C.F.R. §1.102(c), specifically, because the invention in this application will materially enhance the quality of the environment and/or materially contribute to the conservation of energy resources. Accompanying this petition is a Statement of Facts in Support of Petition to Make Special.

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**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being sent by facsimile transmission to the centralized facsimile number at the United States Patent and Trademark Office at 703-872-9306.

Date: October 18, 2004

  
Mary M. Lee, Attorney for Applicant

No fee is required.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mary M. Lee, Reg. No. 31,976  
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Attorney for Applicant

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PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Ronald L. Strahan  
 Serial No.: 10/695,610  
 Filed: October 28, 2003  
 For: MOBILE GAS SEPARATOR  
 SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
 TREATING DIRTY GAS AT THE  
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Group No.: 1724  
 Examiner: Jason M. Greene  
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**Commissioner for Patents**  
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**Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

**STATEMENT OF FACTS  
 IN SUPPORT OF PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL**

I, Mary M. Lee, am attorney of record in the above-referenced application.

I submit the following facts in support of the accompanying petition to make special the above application.

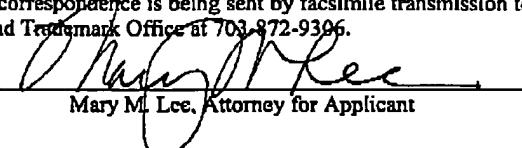
1. As stated in the application (see "Background of the Invention"), raw natural gas produced from wells that have been recently stimulated may be heavily contaminated with carbon dioxide (frequently used in well stimulation procedures) and other undesirable substances including other hydrocarbons, particulates and hydrogen sulfide. Once the initial heavily contaminated gas has been expelled from a stimulated

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 Mary M. Lee, Attorney for Applicant

well, the well usually will begin to produce sales quality product. Presently, it is a common practice in the oil and gas industry to simply "flare" or vent into the atmosphere the initial "dirty" gas until sensors show that the contaminants have been reduced to an acceptable level. This flaring practice results in the waste of valuable natural gas and releases contaminants and undesirable substances into the environment.

2. The present invention is directed to a method and apparatus for capturing and cleaning the initial dirty gas from recently stimulated wells. This invention, therefore, will enhance the quality of our air by reducing a source of pollutants and will capture and preserve valuable natural gas, thus conserving a valuable energy resource.

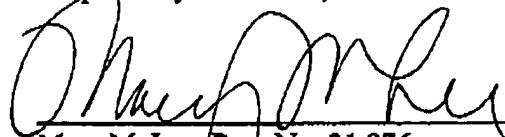
3. I have caused to be made a careful and thorough pre-examination search of the prior art. The search was made of US Patents and was conducted in Chem Apparatus, Class 422, Subclass 168; Wells, Class 166, Subclass 267; Gas Separation, Class 055, Subclass 356; and Gas Separation, Class 095, Subclasses 50 and 51. The search included the US PTO EAST EP (Euro) and JP (Japan) databases.

4. All references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims previously have been made of record in the application.

5. None of these references, whether considered separately or in any combination, shows or suggests either: (1) a mobile gas separator system for temporary use at the well site of a natural gas well following stimulation comprising a mobile support adapted to be parked temporarily at the well site, a gas separator on the mobile support, and a pretreatment assembly for preparing the dirty gas from the well for the gas separator; or (2) a method comprising conducting dirty natural gas from a first gas well

following stimulation to a mobile gas separation system at the well site and then processing the dirty gas in the mobile gas separation system to produce marketable gas.

Respectfully Submitted,



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